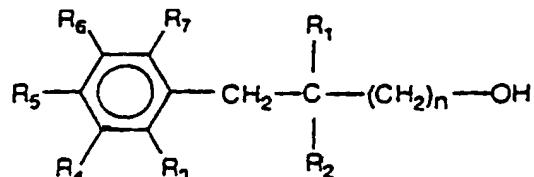


a compound according to formula I:

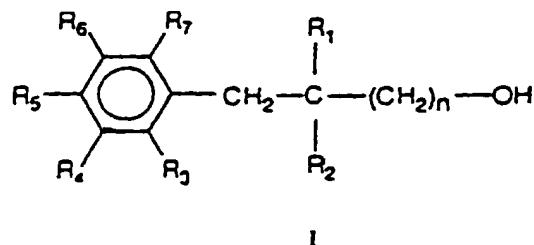


wherein,

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- R₁ is hydrogen or is selected from C₁-C₈ alkyl, uninterrupted or interrupted by oxygen and/or sulphur atoms, C₂-C₈ alkenyl and C₃-C₈ alkynyl;
- R₂ is selected from C₁-C₈ alkyl, uninterrupted or interrupted by oxygen and/or sulphur atoms, C₂-C₈ alkenyl and C₃-C₈ alkynyl; and
- each of R₃ to R₇ independently, is hydrogen, halogen, nitrile or thiocyanate, or selected from C₁-C₈ alkyl, uninterrupted or interrupted by oxygen and/or sulphur atoms, C₂-C₈ alkenyl and C₃-C₈ alkynyl, optionally attached to the aromatic ring by -S- or -O-, and n is 1 or 2, with the proviso that when R₁ and all groups R₃, R₄, R₆ and R₇ are hydrogen and R₅ is methyl, isopropyl, tert-butyl, or methoxy, then n = 2.

22. (Amended) A method of disinfecting a surface comprising the step of applying a disinfectant to said surface, said disinfectant comprising: a compound selected from alcohols, surfactants and solvents; and a compound according to formula I according to formula I:



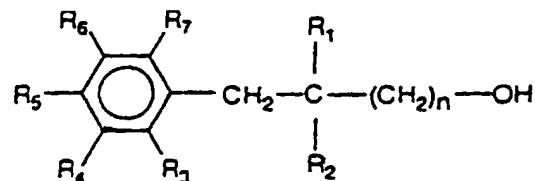
wherein,

R₁ is hydrogen or is selected from C₁-C₈ alkyl, uninterrupted or interrupted by oxygen and/or sulphur atoms, C₂-C₈ alkenyl and C₃-C₈ alkynyl;

R₂ is selected from C₁-C₈ alkyl, uninterrupted or interrupted by oxygen and/or sulphur atoms, C₂-C₈ alkenyl and C₃-C₈ alkynyl; and

each of R₃ to R₇ independently, is hydrogen, halogen, nitrile or thiocyanate, or selected from C₁-C₈ alkyl, uninterrupted or interrupted by oxygen and/or sulphur atoms, C₂-C₈ alkenyl and C₃-C₈ alkynyl, optionally attached to the aromatic ring by -S- or -O-, and n is 1 or 2, with the proviso that when R₁ and all groups R₃, R₄, R₆ and R₇ are hydrogen and R₅ is methyl, isopropyl, tert-butyl, or methoxy, then n = 2.

24. (Amended) A method of deodorizing a surface comprising the step of applying a disinfectant to said surface, said deodorant comprising: a compound selected from alcohols, surfactants and solvents; and a compound according to formula I:



wherein,

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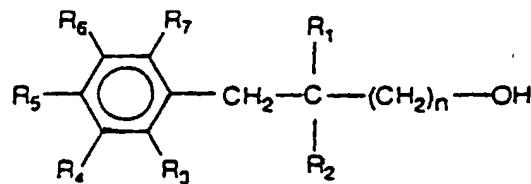
R₁ is hydrogen or is selected from C₁-C₈ alkyl, uninterrupted or interrupted by oxygen and/or sulphur atoms, C₂-C₈ alkenyl and C₃-C₈ alkynyl;

R₂ is selected from C₁-C₈ alkyl, uninterrupted or interrupted by oxygen and/or sulphur atoms, C₂-C₈ alkenyl and C₃-C₈ alkynyl; and

each of R₃ to R₇ independently, is hydrogen, halogen, nitrile or thiocyanate, or selected from C₁-C₈ alkyl, uninterrupted or interrupted by oxygen and/or sulphur atoms, C₂-C₈ alkenyl and C₃-C₈ alkynyl, optionally attached to the aromatic ring by -S- or -O-, and n is 1 or 2, with the proviso that when R₁ and all groups R₃, R₄, R₆ and R₇ are hydrogen and R₅ is methyl, isopropyl, tert-butyl, or methoxy, then n = 2.

Please add new claims 26 - 42 as follows:

-- 26. Process for the production of a compound of formula I:



wherein,

R₁ is hydrogen;

R₂ is selected from C₁-C₈ alkyl, uninterrupted or interrupted by oxygen and/or sulphur atoms, C₂-C₈ alkenyl and C₃-C₈ alkynyl; and

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each of R₃ to R₇ independently, is hydrogen, halogen, nitrile or thiocyanate, or selected from C₁-C₈ alkyl, uninterrupted or interrupted by oxygen and/or sulphur atoms, C₂-C₈ alkenyl and C₃-C₈ alkynyl, optionally attached to the aromatic ring by -S- or -O-, and n is 1 or 2;

with the proviso, that

i) when all groups R₃ through R₇ are hydrogen, then

$$n = 2;$$

ii) when all groups R₃, R₄, R₆ and R₇ are hydrogen and R₅ is methyl, isopropyl, tert-butyl, or methoxy, then n = 2;

iii) when R₃, R₆ and R₇ are hydrogen, R₂ is methyl, and R₄ and/or R₅ are hydrogen or C₁-C₆ alkyl, then n = 2;

iv) when R₄ through R₇ are hydrogen, R₂ is methyl or ethyl, and R₃ is methyl or methoxy, then n = 2;

v) when R₃, R₅ and R₇ are hydrogen, R₂ is methyl, R₄ and R₆ are methyl or R₄ is hydrogen and R₆ is methyl, then n = 2; and

vi) when R₂ is butyl, R₃ and R₅ are chloride, and all other groups R₄, R₆ and R₇ are hydrogen, then n = 2;

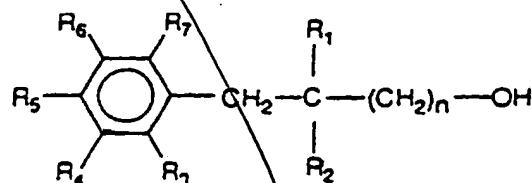
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said process comprising the steps of:

- a) monoalkylating a malonic acid dialkyl ester to introduce the group R₂;
- b) dialkylating the monoalkylated malonic acid alkyl ester with a benzyl halide optionally substituted at the aromatic ring to introduce the groups R₃ through R₇ which are other than hydrogen;
- c) saponifying and decarboxylating the dialkylated malonic acid dialkyl ester to form a corresponding 3-aryl-substituted propionic acid, and
- d) reducing the 3-aryl-substituted propionic acid to form a desired alcohol of formula I.

27. A disinfectant, antiseptic, antimycotic, deodorant or preservative comprising:

a compound selected from alcohols, surfactants and solvents; and

at least one compound according to formula I:



wherein,

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R_1 is hydrogen or is selected from $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_8$ alkyl, uninterrupted or interrupted by oxygen and/or sulphur atoms, $\text{C}_2\text{-C}_8$ alkenyl and $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_8$ alkynyl;

R_2 is selected from $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_8$ alkyl, uninterrupted or interrupted by oxygen and/or sulphur atoms, $\text{C}_2\text{-C}_8$ alkenyl and $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_8$ alkynyl; and

each of R_3 to R_7 independently, is hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, halogen, nitrile or thiocyanate, uninterrupted or interrupted by oxygen and/or sulphur atoms, $\text{C}_2\text{-C}_8$ alkenyl and $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_8$ alkynyl, optionally attached to the aromatic ring by -S- or -O-, and n is 1 or 2,

with the proviso, that

- i) when R_1 and all groups R_3 through R_7 are hydrogen, then
 - $n = 2$;
- ii) when R_1 and R_2 are $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$ alkyl and
 - a) all groups R_3 to R_7 are hydrogen, or
 - b) R_5 is methyl, methoxy or chloride, and all other groups R_3 ,

R_4 , R_6 and R_7 are hydrogen,

then $n = 2$;

iii) when R_1 , R_2 and R_4 are methyl and all groups R_3 and R_5 through R_7 are hydrogen, then $n = 2$;

iv) when R_1 , R_3 , R_6 and R_7 are hydrogen, R_2 is methyl, and R_4 and/or R_5 are hydrogen or C_1 - C_6 alkyl, then $n = 2$;

v) when R_1 and R_4 through R_7 are hydrogen, R_2 is methyl or ethyl, and R_3 is methyl or methoxy, then $n = 2$;

vi) when R_1 , R_3 , R_5 and R_7 are hydrogen, R_2 is methyl, R_4 and R_6 are methyl or R_4 is hydrogen and R_6 is methyl, then $n = 2$; and

vii) when R_1 is hydrogen, R_2 is butyl, R_3 and R_5 are chloride, and all other groups R_4 , R_6 and R_7 are hydrogen, then $n = 2$.

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28. A disinfectant, antiseptic, antimycotic, deodorant or preservative according to claim 27, wherein R_3 to R_7 are hydrogen, R_1 is hydrogen, R_2 is hydrogen and n is 1.

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29. A disinfectant, antiseptic, antimycotic, deodorant or preservative according to claim 27, wherein R_3 to R_7 are hydrogen, R_1 is hydrogen, R_2 is methyl, and n is 1.

30. A disinfectant, antiseptic, antimycotic, deodorant or preservative according to claim 27, wherein R₃ and R₅ to R₇ are hydrogen, R₄ is methyl, R₁ is hydrogen, R₂ is methyl, and n is 1.

31. A disinfectant, antiseptic, antimycotic, deodorant or preservative according to claim 27, wherein R₃ to R₇ are hydrogen, R₁ is hydrogen, R₂ is ethyl, and n is 1.

32. A disinfectant, antiseptic, antimycotic, deodorant or preservative according to claim 27, wherein R₃ and R₅ to R₇ are hydrogen, R₄ is methyl, R₁ is hydrogen, R₂ is ethyl, and n is 1.

33. A disinfectant, antiseptic, antimycotic, deodorant or preservative according to claim 27, wherein R₃ and R₅ to R₇ are hydrogen, R₄ is chlorine, R₁ is hydrogen, R₂ is ethyl and n is 1.

34. A disinfectant, antiseptic, antimycotic, deodorant or preservative according to claim 27, wherein R₄ to R₇ are hydrogen, R₃ is chlorine, R₁ is hydrogen, R₂ is ethyl and n is 1.

35. A disinfectant, antiseptic, antimycotic, deodorant or preservative according to claim 27, wherein ~~are~~ hydrogen, R₅ is chlorine, R₁ is hydrogen, R₂ is ethyl and n is 1.

36. A disinfectant, antiseptic, antimycotic, deodorant or preservative according to claim 27, wherein ~~are~~ hydrogen, R₄ and R₅ are chlorine, R₁ is hydrogen, R₂ is ethyl and n is 1.

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37. A disinfectant, antiseptic, antimycotic, deodorant or preservative according to claim 27, wherein R₄ to R₇ are hydrogen, R₃ is methyl, R₁ is hydrogen, R₂ is ethyl and n is 1.

38. A disinfectant, antiseptic, antimycotic, deodorant or preservative according to claim 27, wherein R₃, R₆ and R₇ are hydrogen, R₄ and R₅ are methyl, R₁ is hydrogen, R₂ is ethyl and n is 1.

39. A disinfectant, antiseptic, antimycotic, deodorant or preservative according to claim 27, wherein R₃ and R₅ to R₇ are hydrogen, R₄ is methoxy, R₁ is hydrogen, R₂ is ethyl and n is 1.

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40. A disinfectant, antiseptic, antimycotic, deodorant or preservative according to claim 27, wherein R₃, R₆ and R₇ are hydrogen, R₄ and R₅ are methoxy, R₁ is hydrogen, R₂ is ethyl and n is 1.

41. A disinfectant, antiseptic, antimycotic, deodorant or preservative according to claim 27, wherein R₃ to R₇ are hydrogen, R₁ is hydrogen, R₂ is butylene, and n is 1.

42. A disinfectant, antiseptic, antimycotic, deodorant or preservative according to claim 27, wherein R₃ to R₇ are hydrogen, R₁ is hydrogen, R₂ is pentyl and n is 1.--